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WHY SHOULD WOMEN KISS?

A PROTEST AGAINST UNNECESSARY DEMONSTRATION.

[BY MRS. HUMPHREY ("MADGE").]

Will some energetic writer start a crusade
against conventional kissing, especially during
hot weather? Why should women kiss each
other every time they meet? An enormous
amount of superfluous kissing goes on among
them. It is generally unnecessary, and often
very disagreeable. I called on some friends the
other morning; they numbered four, and I was
the recipient of sixteen kisses on arriving and
of eight on going away. I knew them to be
mere conventions, and assessed them as such.
If I could without discourtesy have avoided
them I should gladly have done so. It was a
very hot day.

Feeling certain that thousands of women,
certainly the majority, if not all, share the ob-
jection to being kissed, I would suggest that a
campaign should be organised against these
labial assaults. Coming down in the morning
with fresh cheeks and in good humor with
all the world, one's face has to be the para-
ground of many lips. This is not refreshing,
and finger-glasses would be welcomed at the
morning meal where over-much kissing is the
custom.

Women would more easily be cured of the
habit of the kiss conventional if they were aware
that the custom arose in the pre-Darwinian days,
when animals licked one another as a token of
affection. Europeans and Americans appear to
be almost the only nations who practise
osculation. In Japan it is unknown. The
Chinese keep it rigidly and exclusively
for lovers, and regard our kisses of
friendship as odious, and suggestive of cannibal-
istic tendencies. The Chinese child is threat-
ened with a white man's kiss in the same
circumstances where the English nurse would
suggest a buggy man. The Japanese prefer to
express affection by "arts of exquisite courtesy
and kindness."

THREE KINDS.
The ancient Romans had three words for the
kiss: *osculum* for friendship, *basium* for affec-
tion, both of these varieties bestowed upon the
forehead or cheeks, and *amatorium* for love, on
the lips. This appears to be such a sane
division of osculatory caresses that it is
regrettable that it should not have survived.
But even then it would not entirely meet
the case of the kiss conventional bestowed
haphazard upon each other by all sorts
and conditions of women. It is really an in-
trusion on one's individual prerogative. Even the
contact of ungloved hands is occasionally un-
pleasant; the kiss indiscriminate how much
worse! There are many good reasons against
kissing, noses and hat brims among the number.
It is amusing to see two women with large noses
preparing to kiss each other.

Kissing is a custom of the middle classes, upper
and lower. Women of the higher class do not
practise it in nearly the same degree. Why
should we not give it up entirely, so far as its
conventional use is concerned? It would then
mean something. Why not reserve it for
moments of affection, when the cheeks are
stirred; when we part for a time and feel
the grief of it; when we meet again and
know the joy of it? But as matters are
now, it is an absolutely meaningless perform-
ance, and a troublesome convention of which
most of us would gladly be quit. Let kisses be
left for lovers. Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Smith can
surely express all they feel in a hearty handshake,
and would be saved the trouble of raising a
more or less flimsy veil in order to receive the
perfunctory labial salutes of their acquaintances.
It is a primary law of good manners that we
should respect each other's personal rights.
No well-bred man or woman comes into unnece-
sary close contact with a fellow passenger in a
train, and even in the most crowded streets it
is only the rudest who disregard this bit of
ordinary politeness. And yet the world
of women goes on kissing each other, a form of
assault which should be an indictable offence.

PAINT AND POWDER.
The suppression would be welcomed by those
who wear paint and powder. It is amusing to
notice the evident alarm depicted on their coun-
tenances when they are threatened with a kiss.
When a demonstrative girl rushes at one of
these unwitting of rouge or poudre de riz, and
confers a largesse of kisses upon the delicate
preparation whereas the pretty cheeks are
coated; the afflicted proprietress, who has prob-
ably expended an hour or more upon the care-
ful arrangement, feels all the more irritated
because she dares give it no expression. Her
temper may be ruined for the day.

It is surprising that with all the kiss-
ing that goes on in our so-called civil-
ised England, so little advances should
have been made in the science of bestowing a
kiss. Very few persons understand the art.
Neatness is forgotten, and the first impulse
of the kiss is to wipe away all traces of the offend-
ing salute as speedily as may be consistent with
politeness. Others deliver a peck upon the
cheeks, and, in some cases, by no means a small
peck. There are vigorous women whose labial
buffetings are quite enough to produce a
toothache in a sensitive jaw. Their kisses jar
the kissers' whole head. One never knows
where the wild kisses of others may alight.
With inward shrinking one offers a cheek,
wondering whether he is going to kiss it, and
the result often justifies one's worst fears.
The poor cheek is discomfited by the assault of
lips that have had no training in the art of
osculation.

WANTED, A LEADER.
Who will rid us of this senseless form of
salutation? Who will start a Society for the
Suppression of Superfluous Osculation? All
members should pledge themselves to be par-
ticularly watchful of the lips. The cost of
membership should be very slight indeed, in
order that all classes might join in this protest
against a bad habit. In fact, the funds needed
would be fully sufficient to cover the expense of
circulating literature on the subject. "The day
would be won if such a society could only make
conventional kissing ridiculous. And after all,
there is very little to be said in its defence.
Adherents would rush in, appropriating the
deliverance from unwelcome salutes that would
certainly ensue. Perhaps a little badge might
be worn which would be a defence, and also an
advertisement of the scheme. A prize might be
offered for the best design for such a badge."
Daily Express.

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larity of the system. Many women habitually
suffer from Headaches, which make life a daily
purgatory. Indeed this complaint may be regarded
as peculiarly an affection of the feminine sex, an
ailment common to all women from girlhood to old
age. If men suffered from Headaches as women
do, business would be at a standstill, but the truth
is that a woman's headache is generally due to
womanly causes. Dr. Morse's Indian Root
Pills get at the cause. They aid the digestion
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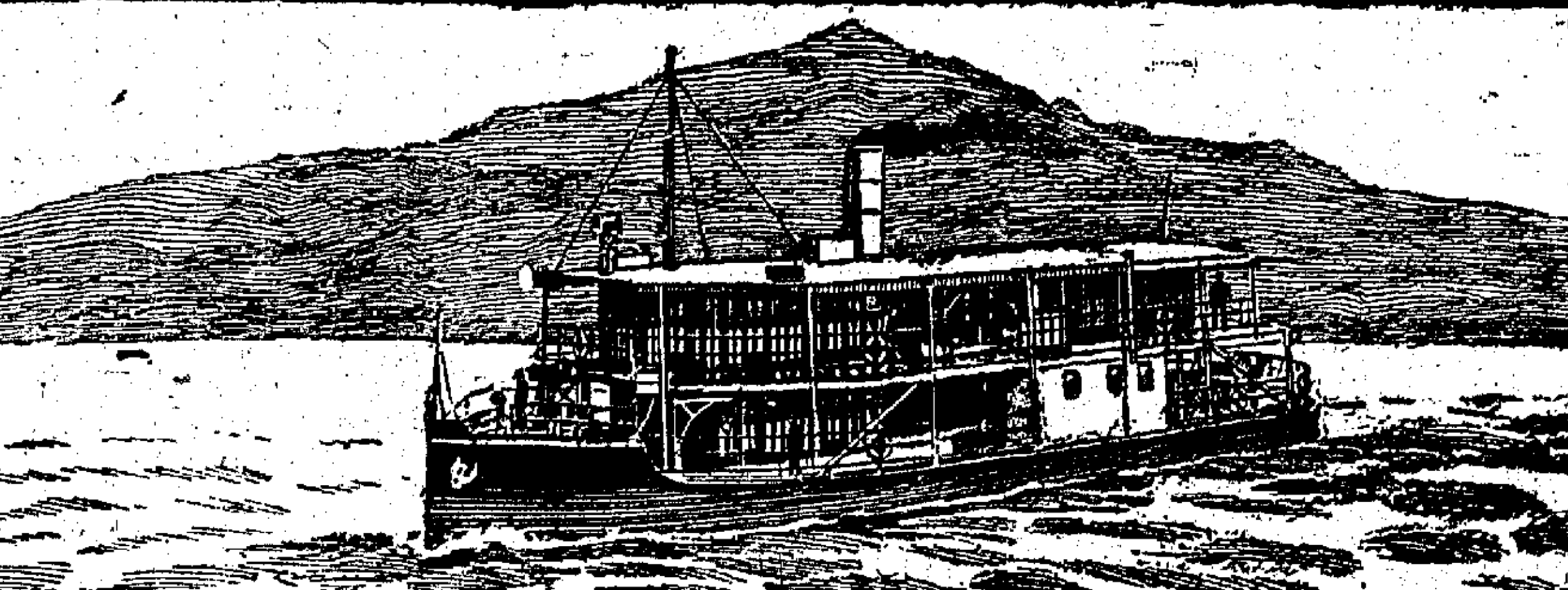
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